

## REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-18 are pending in the subject application and have been indicated to be allowable.

The subject invention further limits the scope of claims as allowed to require that component (iii) in Applicants' claimed NO<sub>x</sub> removal compositions contain ceria. Support of this amendment is found in the specification as originally filed at page 4, lines 13-16. No new matter has been added by the herein amendment to the claims.

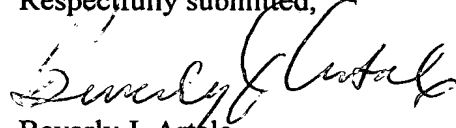
Applicants' claimed invention, as herein amended, is unpatentable over McCauley et al. (US Patent 6,117,813).

Applicants' invention has now been clearly defined to comprise novel NO<sub>x</sub> removal compositions, a fluid cracking catalyst comprising reduce NO<sub>x</sub> and CO emissions during an FCC regeneration process. Generally, the composition of the invention comprises a component which contains (i) an acidic oxide support containing at least 50 weight percent alumina, (ii) about 1-10 parts by weight, measured as the metal oxide, of at least one alkaline earth metal, (iii) at least 1 part by weight of a ceria containing transition metal oxide having oxygen storage capability, and (iv) at least 0.01 parts by weight of palladium, all parts by weight being per 100 parts by weight of the acidic oxide support.

McCauley et al. discloses a catalyst composition that promotes the combustion of carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide. The catalyst includes effective concentrations of Group VIII transition metal oxides, Group IIIB transition metal oxides, and Group IIA alkaline earth metal oxides, desirably in combination with microspheroidal alumina. The catalyst composition as disclosed by McCauley et al. fails to disclose a ceria containing transition metal oxide having oxygen storage capability.

The claims as amended by the subject amendment are patentable over the prior art of record. To date, the Issue Fee has not been paid. Accordingly, entry of the herein Amendment under 37 CFR 312 is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beverly J. Artale", written in a cursive style.

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